



AT WASHINGTON BRIDGE

THERE is no more picturesque shore line bordering Manhattan Island than along the upper reaches of the Harlem River. Washington Heights descend abruptly to the water's edge in precipitous cliffs, relieved here and there by stretches of natural woodlands, which are almost the last of their kind to survive the northern growth of the city. To span the deep valley of the Harlem several graceful bridges have been thrown across the river. The most recent and by far the most beautiful of these, the Washington Bridge, carries the traffic of a busy street as well as a double line of trolley cars. Looking north from a point just below the bridge the graceful spans are seen to frame a beautiful vista of the river and much wild and rugged scenery.

In recent years the shore line of the Harlem River along the Manhattan side has been much improved. For more than two miles a broad driveway replaces the marshes and the ill kept shore line of earlier days. The Harlem River was pushed back by an elaborate system of cribbing. Where the width of the strip at the foot of the cliffs permitted a formal park was laid out, and many winding paths lead from the water level to the streets above. Facing the Speedway stretches a long line of boathouses, which lend a pleasant touch of color to the scene.

